

Chicago to Iowa City line will create jobs, generate \$25 million per year in business activity

Washington, DC – Congressman Bruce Braley (D-Iowa) released the following statement today following the announcement that the Department of Transportation awarded \$230 million in federal funding for a new Amtrak route between Chicago and Iowa City through the Quad Cities. The project is scheduled for completion in 2015 and will create 588 jobs per year for the first four years of design and construction. Once initiated, the new rail service is expected to increase business activity by \$25 million per year.

“Today’s announcement is great news for Iowa,” Braley said. “The Chicago to Iowa City route will create jobs and bring significant economic gains to Eastern Iowa. I’m proud of the work I’ve done with my colleagues in Iowa and Illinois to make this route possible. This is one more step to create jobs in the short term and put Iowa’s economy back on track.”

The long-term goal of the HSIPR Program – created in June 2009 – is to build an efficient, high-speed and emerging high speed passenger rail network connecting major population centers 100 to 600 miles apart. In the short-term, the program aims to aid economic recovery efforts and lay the foundation for this high-speed passenger rail network through targeted investments.